



Practice Guidance

Holidays During term time for Children Looked After

Leicestershire Children and Young People's Service in accordance with Government Guidance operates on a principle that children and young people we look after will not be taken out of school during term time for the purpose of holidays.

We recognise that educational achievement is a key factor in enabling our young people to make a smooth transition to adult life and that a good attendance record is essential for such achievement.

Improved attendance for all children is a priority and, in recognition of the particular disadvantages they experience, special attention has been given to the circumstances of children looked after.

Even short periods out of school can have a detrimental effect on the learning and development of our children.

This practice guidance acknowledges that there could be exceptional circumstances where a holiday in term time may be permitted. (e.g. –a family event with a child placed long term or a holiday which will offer significant benefit in terms of the child's social or educational development)

If agreement is given it will be based on assessment that the overall benefit to the child outweighs the disadvantages of the absence from education.

As soon as any worker or carer becomes aware of a situation where agreement for a term time holiday should be considered they must follow the procedure outlined

- Childs Social Worker and Fostering Social Worker to be made aware of the proposal
- Application to be completed for submission to Team Manager / Service Manager CCOPS. This should be completed in detail by the child's social worker in liaison with the carer's social worker. Assistant Director agreement will be required if the period exceeds 2 weeks
- A copy of this to be submitted to the Service Manager FPT if the cost of holiday is to exceed the usual holiday allowance (2 weeks fostering allowance per year)
Costs will need to be agreed before any final decision is made.

Carers are advised to make no financial commitment to a holiday booking until agreement has been received in writing.